

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

Shellfish Advisory Panel

August 12, 2015, 5:00 pm

Warwick Public Library, Room 101

600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI

Meeting Minutes

RIMFC Members Present: J. Grant (Chair)

SAP Members Present: M. McGiveney; R. Blank; K. Eagan; J. Gardner; G. Shey; R. Rheault-Alt

Public Present: A. Cycgler; J. Arnoux; N. Papa; J. Roberts; G. Schey; J. Scappatura; B. Boehringer; C. Johnson

CRMC: D. Beutel

DEM: J. Mercer; W. Helt

1. Update on IAC meeting

McGiveney gave a brief overview of the discussion at the IAC meeting and proposal to drop the CFL license for the shellfish sector and reduce the number of PEL endorsements for shellfish.

2. Aquaculture Lease Applications

- a. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-05-107, Papa, Ninigret Pond, Charlestown.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Portions of the lease will be used for bottom planting and portions will have gear during the winter months. Mercer stated that portions of the lease were mapped as recreational shellfishing areas through the Shellfish Management Plan mapping efforts. Motion made by McGiveney to not object, Gardner seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to not object to the application with Blank abstaining

- b. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-06-005, Johnson & Scappatura, Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Mercer stated that portions of the lease were mapped as falling within eelgrass beds in 2012 but Beutel said that no grass was observed in his inspections. Motion made by Gardner to not object, Schey seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to not object to the application with Eagan abstaining.

- c. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-07-027, Blaney, Harbor of Refuge, Narragansett.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Concerns were raised about the length of the lease and when the gear would be put in the water and removed. Motion made by Blank to not object, McGiveney seconded the motion. The board voted 3-0 to not object to the application with Gardner and Eagan abstaining

- d. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-07-031, Arnoux, Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Motion made by McGiveney to not object, Gardner seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to not object to the application with Blank abstaining

- e. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-07-083, Boehringer & Hoehn, Point Judith Pond, South Kingstown.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Mercer stated that portions of the lease were mapped as recreational shellfishing areas through the Shellfish Management Plan mapping efforts. Motion made by Blank to not object, Eagan seconded the motion. The board voted 5-0 to not object to the application.

- f. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-07-087, Roberts, Ninigret Pond, Charlestown.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Mercer stated that portions of the lease were mapped as recreational shellfishing areas through the Shellfish Management Plan mapping efforts. Motion made by McGiveney to not object, Blank seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to not object to the application with Gardner abstaining

- g. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2015-07-089, Cataldo, Point Judith Pond, Narragansett.

Beutel gave a brief overview of the lease location and operational plan. Motion made by Blank to not object, Gardner seconded the motion. The board voted 5-0 to not object to the application.

3. Determination of Winter Harvest Schedule

Mercer presented the findings from RIDEM analysis that the population in Greenwich Bay appeared to be up slightly from 2013-2014. McGiveney suggested maintaining the same schedule as last year with the exception that Greenwich Bay open on January 4th instead of the 1st. Eagan proposed maintaining the same schedule in Bristol with the exception that the area open January 11th instead of the 1st. Motion made by McGiveney to approve the winter harvest schedule as proposed, Blank seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to approve (Gardner left meeting prior to vote).

4. Extension of Oyster Harvest Moratorium in Bissel Cove / Fox Island Management Area.

Mercer explained that there is to be ongoing oyster restoration activity in the area over the next 5 years through the NRCS EQUIP program. Motion made by McGiveney to approve a 5 year extension to the oyster harvest moratorium in Bissel Cove / Fox Island Management Area expiring Sept 2020. Blank seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to approve (Gardner left meeting prior to vote).

Prepared by: Jeff Mercer

For more information or a copy of the recording from the meeting please contact Jeff Mercer at (401) 423-1937